

# AIR BRIDGE

► Vol. 11, No. 5

► 927th Air Refueling Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

► May 2006



*A B-2 Spirit, based at Whiteman AFB, Missouri, is refueled by a 927th ARW tanker Apr. 19 while returning to Selfridge ANG Base during a civic leader flight .*

## **Mission**

A multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions.

## **Features**

Provides the penetrating flexibility and effectiveness inherent in manned bombers. The B-2's low observability is derived from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures. The B-2 has a crew of two pilots, compared to the B-1B's crew of four and the B-52's crew of five.

## **Background**

First publicly displayed on Nov. 22, 1988. The first aircraft, Spirit of Missouri, was delivered Dec. 17, 1993.

# Community leaders awed

**Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Scott LaForest**

Staff writer/photographer

Anticipation and excitement filled their inner bodies as they anxiously waited for its arrival.

A wide-eyed, unsuspecting look spread rapidly over their faces as they cautiously entered the boom pod of the 927<sup>th</sup> ARW KC-135. Much to their amazement, the pitch black, Star Wars-like B-2 Spirit bomber from the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Missouri, virtually filled the boom pod window. Civic leaders were astounded knowing the bomber was only 12 feet from the tanker traveling at approximately 375 miles per hour.

"That was awesome," said Carolyn Schmidt, representing Woodside Bible Church in Troy, Mich., after witnessing the bomber being refueled at a lofty altitude of 26,000 feet.

That was a typical reaction of the 13 civic leaders airlifted by the 927<sup>th</sup> to Scott AFB April 19.

Refueling was certainly the highlight of the day, which also included visits to Headquarters, U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command.

"It is very gratifying to have our community leaders from all walks of life take time from their busy schedules to spend a day with us," said 927<sup>th</sup> ARW public affairs chief Tom Schmidt. The group consisted of leaders from the private business sector and government agencies around Michigan.

"It is the wing's opportunity to tell its story with hopes our guests will return to the community and spread word of the professional job we do," explained Schmidt.

As the aircraft access door opened after landing at Scott AFB, Ill., the group was greeted by Colonel Al Lowry, 375<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Operations Group commander, accompanied by Ms. Christine Spargur, 375<sup>th</sup> AW chief of community relations.

— see, Community leaders, page 2 ➔

## ► VIEW FROM THE TOP

by Col. Gary Beebe  
Wing Commander

May is here so quickly and it seems like we just celebrated arrival of the new year. How fast time flies!

### SATAF

Air Force Reserve Command Site Activation Task Force team visited in April and took a look at what needs to be done at Selfridge to prepare for the move to MacDill.

The “straw man” unit manning document indicates manning will not look exactly the same when we move. Overall, manning looks pretty good and negotiations are underway for additional manning in the maintenance area. The basic time line is to lose four jets in the April-June 2008 timeframe and the last four jets between July and September of the same year. It is anticipated many operations and maintenance personnel will be moving in the summer of 2008 and most of the expeditionary combat support personnel will move that fall. The goal is to have the entire unit moved by February 2009.

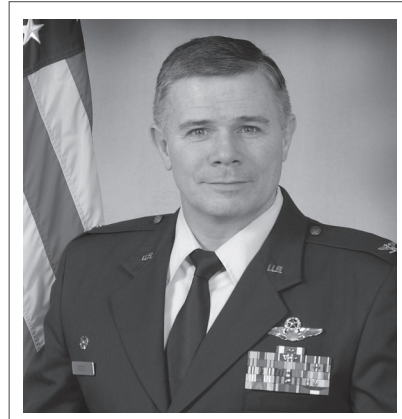
The G-series order to stand up “Det 1” of 4th Air Force at MacDill has been published. The organization will grow and become the 927<sup>th</sup> ARW when the wing flag is moved. I anticipate manning the detachment with folks this October to watch over our interests.

### Phoenix Rally

Hosted by Air Mobility Command, is the coming together of all wing commanders from active duty, Guard and AFRC, to take look at how all are doing as keepers of the nation’s mobility needs. All mobility air forces continue to do great work in supporting the GWOT. Active duty Air Force has great people, but without support of citizen airmen like you, our nation would be in tough shape. Your presence, willingness to train, deploy and fight, and your love of freedom is making a difference. Thank you for recognizing freedom has a price and being willing to pay that price.

### Tanker selection

General Duncan J. McNabb, AMC commander, announced selection of a new tanker is close at hand. The vision



is for the tanker to have a multi-role capability with “...floors, doors and defensive systems.” In other words, it will not only be an air refueling platform, but will have significant cargo capability and the ability to get “into and out of” the world’s hotspots. There is strong indication MacDill will be the first to get the new KC-X as it comes on line, which means 927<sup>th</sup> reservists will be flying, fixing and supporting the nation’s newest airplanes.

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve with every one of you. Thank you for your service to our country.

## Community leaders *(continued)*

“You can think of Scott as the military’s moving company,” said Spargur, as she enthusiastically explained the roles of USTRANSCOM and AMC, both headquartered there.

The group got a taste of military security when separated from their cell phones and other communication devices before entering USTRANSCOM headquarters.

The civic leaders were briefed by Mr. Craig Koontz, USTRANSCOM public affairs, who explained the command’s mission of transporting everything the Department of Defense war fighter needs “from factory to foxhole.”

Tanker Airlift Control Center at Air Mobility Command headquarters was the

final stop on the whirlwind tour. “TACC plans and controls AMC sorties,” said Brigadier General Donald Lustig, TACC vice commander. “Planners and controllers are on duty 24/7 ensuring manpower and resources are in the right place at the right time all around the world.”

With the ground tour completed, it was time to head for the flight line where the tanker waited to fly our guests’ home to Selfridge.

The refueling of a B-2 and learning so much about the Air Force in such short time captivated the civic leaders to the point of endlessly talking about

their memorable experience and one they will tell their friends and relatives about for years to come.



Civic leaders climb stairway to board a 927<sup>th</sup> ARW KC-135R at Selfridge as they prepare for a flight to Scott AFB, Ill. for a tour of USTRANSCOM and AMC.

## ► HEALTH

# Fitness and good health

by Staff Sgt. Kevin Tomko

Staff Writer

It's that time of year again—barbecues, baseball games, vacations and um.....fitness testing. Aargh!

For most, fitness testing will not be a problem. For others it may be a struggle, but help is on the way!

With the inception of the new fitness program in 2004, Air Force Reserve Command's performance has stumbled.

In the past, if a person failed the three-mile walk, he or she simply took it again a few months later and generally passed. However, with more stringent force-wide fitness standards in place, AFRC officials recognized this approach to fitness testing was no longer good enough. A determination was made that a comprehensive education and intervention program was needed to help reservists improve their overall fitness scores.

A program titled, "Healthy Living Program for Reservists," was developed and a brochure highlighting fitness program requirements and helpful Internet resources was published.

Totally Web-based, the new *Healthy Living Program for Reservists* will be posted on the Air Force portal under the Fitness Management System tab. Divided into three instruction modules, it focuses on specific topics—fitness, nutrition, and behavior modification.

Master Sgt. Russell Burton, a 927<sup>th</sup> fitness program administrator, said he believes the wing is showing overall improvement. "Most folks understand and are embracing the concept. The program wasn't put in

place to make someone pass a test once a year, but rather to encourage a healthier lifestyle to include proper diet and exercise."

How should a person prepare to take the fitness test if they really do not get sufficient exercise?

"Persons taking the test first of all need to be honest with themselves. If they haven't been exercising, it's unrealistic to expect anything better than mediocre results," said Burton. "For someone just starting an exercise program, start slow and build up," he said.

***"Most folks understand and are embracing the concept...."***

***- MSgt Burton***

Burton said to start doing little things like parking one's vehicle further from a building and walking to their destination, and using a stairway, rather than an elevator, as a means of increasing endurance.

Of course, the hardest part of exercise for some people is just getting started. Statistics clearly show many reservists have yet to incorporate fitness as an integral part of their lifestyle. If possible, find a friend or coworker with whom you can exercise to make it more fun and for moral support.

It's time to get off the couch, turn off the electronic devices, and start on a path to a new and improved lifestyle.

Fitness is much more than passing a fitness test once a year. It's about embracing a culture of

fitness that can enhance all aspects of one's life.

Your good health will be appreciated by your family and will provide untold benefits.

## Master Sgt. Burton's fitness suggestions:

- Consult your doctor before starting any exercise program
- Perform exercises slowly and methodically, concentrate on form
- Rush through crunches and pushups only when testing
- Sprints will increase endurance at a faster pace
- Purchase proper fitting running shoes
- Drink plenty of water. Avoid caffeinated drinks

## Facts

**2003**-76% of AFRC reservists weathered the fitness test; 98.9% passed

**2005**-(Air Force figures)  
Reservists tested  
AFRC 68% 927<sup>th</sup> ARW 76%

Achieved marginal scores  
AFRC 7% 927<sup>th</sup> ARW 5%

Performed poorly  
AFRC 12% 927<sup>th</sup> ARW 8%



## ► FROM THE RANKS

# Freedom is not free

by Senior Master Sgt. William Lagore  
First Sergeant, 927th SFS

It will soon be Memorial Day and many Americans like myself will be thinking of a long weekend, family and picnics. But I was also thinking about sacrifices.

Several years ago, I had an opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery around Memorial Day. Looking upon the gleaming white headstones in the afternoon sun, I was reminded of all veterans who were buried there and the sacrifices they had made. This is a season of memories and to remember those who gave their all.

On this day we mark moments of time when past generations went to war and by their sacrifices demonstrated again and again that in those mortal words, freedom is not free. I then wondered, why? Why did they give so much? What fired such passion? Such devotion? Such sacrifice? Again, as I looked out over the tombstones, I thought answers lied in the unique purpose of this majestic place. Here, Americans lay forever still for a single and singular reason. They believed that our liberty should endure and echo forever. And their hope was so profound and so compelling that they were willing to



purchase that legacy with their very lives.

In 1776, our predecessors knew the difference between right and wrong, and they were unwilling to live in a world where wrong triumphed. So, they fought and they won, and all succeeding generations are the eternal beneficiaries of their sacrifice. We must never forget their undying expectation of us and our unending obligation to them.

Again, I wondered if “we the people” really know what is being celebrated on Memorial Day? First and foremost, we must remember the sacrifices that our founding fathers made to give us our independence and the sacrifices of those who followed. We must also remember the sacrifices

our servicemen and women are making this Memorial Day.

In 1963, President Kennedy said, “Our servicemen and women are serving throughout the world as guardians of peace - many of them away from their homes, their friends and their families. They are visible evidence of our determination to meet any threat to the peace and our freedom with measured strength and high resolve. They are also evidence of a harsh but inescapable truth - that the survival of freedom requires great cost and commitment, and great personal sacrifice.”

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***“They believed our liberty should endure and echo forever.”***

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Enjoy your Memorial Day, the picnics and family gatherings, but don’t just think of it as another long weekend. Take the time to remember those responsible and those who sacrificed so much to give you this opportunity. Remember past generations who died for our freedom. Remember all the men and women who have fallen on the field of battle for this nation, and to renew the ideals for which they died. They, better than most Americans, understood that **‘freedom is not free.’**

## Veteran bikers offer advice

Spring has arrived and with it comes warmer weather and the increased presence of motorcycles, creating added challenges to all motorists.

### Know your machine

Veteran riders have cited “knowing your machine” as one of the most important factors contributing to safe

motorcycle riding. Take extra time and get to know your bike.

### Head gear

Airmen must keep in mind helmet use is **mandatory**

see, Biker advice, next page ➔



## ► STREET TALK

### Imagine you won a \$2.5 million lottery. How would you spend the money?



**Master Sgt. Paul Davis**  
927th ARW

"I would retire and buy one house somewhere in the south and one in Arizona."



**SrA Angela Brink**  
927th ASTS

"I would buy a nice house on a huge piece of property, an awesome Ford Mustang and I would travel all over the world."



**Staff Sgt. Allen Mrock**  
29th CF

"I would take a one year trip around the country with my family in our RV."



**Staff Sgt. Michael Belknap**  
29th APF  
"Move to the Bahamas."

**Tech. Sgt. Amy Whaley**  
29th ASTS

"First, I would take a vacation to the Bahamas. Then, I would pay off my bills, invest some of it, and go back to school to work toward my PhD. I would continue my job working as a nurse."



## Biker advice *(continued)*

when operating a motorcycle on a military base and in the civilian community. It makes good sense to protect your head; it is your most valuable asset!

### Intersections can be killers

Often drivers enter the intersection ahead of a motorcycle because they fail to look closely to recognize a motorcycle.

High traffic areas during rush hour should be avoided, when possible. This will minimize risk and make your trip more enjoyable.

### Eighteen-wheelers

Big rigs present an additional problem for motorcyclists because of blind

spots and these dangerous areas should be avoided. If you can't see the truck mirrors, the driver cannot see you! Eighteen-wheelers also create a huge wind gust when passing a motorcycle and this force may blow an unprepared rider dangerously sideways into other traffic. Always give trucks extra space.

### Safety course

Air Force Instruction 91-207 provides guidance for motorcycle operation and establishes the requirement of an approved motorcycle safety course, as well as, minimum protective equipment to be worn. Future motorcyclists should contact

the Air National Guard safety office at (586) 307-5854 to schedule attendance of a course.

As a final note, always conduct a "pre-flight" prior to straddling your 'hog.' Engine vibration and Michigan road conditions will cause bike parts to loosen. Something falling off your bike at 50 mph is both dangerous and embarrassing, not to mention the cost of replacement. Taking a few extra minutes to check your bike prior to getting on the road can save a lot of trouble and will ensure a safe ride.

For more information contact the wing safety office at 586-307-4953.

*(927th ARW Safety Office)*

## Safety tips

- \* *Have tires with good tread*
- \* *Avoid wearing clothing that may trap insects, such as bees*
- \* *Wear eye protection at all times*
- \* *Do not show off, stand up, or try other stunts while riding*
- \* *Wear a safety helmet – it is DoD policy!*
- \* *Give large trucks extra room on the highway*
- \* *Avoid high traffic areas during rush hour*

## ► NEWS

## Air Force expects to choose tanker contractor

**WASHINGTON** — The Air Force hopes to have a contractor selected for a KC-135 Stratotanker replacement by mid-2007.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne told members of the aerospace industry March 30, the service is hoping to make a source selection for the KC-135 aircraft by the middle of 2007. The Air Force would then embark on an estimated 31-year purchasing program to replace its tanker fleet.

The Air Force hopes to release a request for proposal — an invitation for aircraft manufacturers to offer to build the tanker — by September. Following that, the Air Force would choose an aircraft contractor from those who expressed interest, and would then award a contract.

“I hope we are buying into platforms that are already largely designed,” the secretary said. “And there should be fairly minimal turn to get us a (qualified) airplane, which I am convinced can be done within 36 to 48 months. So that is when I expect to actually get a new tanker underway.”

The secretary said he expects the service to buy about 15 to 20 replacement tankers a year. He said that at that rate, by the time the last KC-135 was replaced, it could be as old as 80 years.

The Air Force is also trying to reduce the number of aircraft in the fleet through retirement. At a time when the service is stressed because of the war on terror, it might seem appropriate to keep those aircraft. But the secretary said reducing the amount of airframes that need to be maintained, thus freeing up resources, is the right move.

*(Air Force Print News)*

## Sexual assault figures released

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Defense released the results of the second annual report on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

The report addresses data on alleged sexual assaults that were reported during 2005 in which members of the armed forces were victims or offenders.

The Air Force received 584 reports of alleged sexual assault — an increase of 28

percent over the prior year. One hundred eighty-one reports made under the restricted reporting option accounted for the increase. Twenty-nine of the restricted reports later moved to an unrestricted report, meaning that an investigation was opened.

“This is exactly what we expected would happen,” said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff, manpower and personnel. “Increased reporting gets people the help they need, and hopefully will lead to a more complete report from which we can take appropriate action.”

“And, through our educational efforts, we are strengthening a culture where Airmen step up, hold each other accountable and help in preventing sexual assault,” he said. “This cannot and will not be a one-time effort. It must become part of the very fiber of who we are in order to effect lasting change.”

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sexual assault is the nation’s most underreported violent crime.

The Air Force encourages victims to report the crime so it may be investigated and prosecuted. However, the

restricted reporting option provides victims who may not be able to immediately take that step, with the care, support and time to make an informed decision.

Significant strides have been made in Air Force prevention and response efforts over the past year, said Air Force officials. Over 360,000 Airmen worldwide have received awareness training. Sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates have been trained and are engaged in prevention efforts and providing assistance to victims. *(Air Force Print News)*

## Common Access Card

Network security is reaching higher levels in the 927<sup>th</sup> ARW and throughout all levels of the Air Force with the use of the Common Access ‘Smart Card.’

The card presents a much higher level of network security than the traditional user name/password setup. Using the card benefits Reservists by being freed from remembering another

*continued next page*

# AIR BRIDGE

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Deadline for submitting items for publication is the first day of the unit training assembly (UTA) of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. To submit items, phone (586) 307-5575 or DSN 273-5575.

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## ► NEWS

password and being forced to change it from time to time.

As the standard military identification card for Department of Defense, it is issued to U.S. military forces, DOD civilian employees, eligible contractors and eligible host nation support personnel.

In addition to being an ID card, it interfaces with DOD's public key infrastructure using digital certificates encoded on the integrated circuit chip. PKI includes a combination of hardware, software, policies and procedures which provides the ability to authenticate, project, and digitally sign electronic mail and documents. All of this is to ensure users meet the minimum requirements to access the system.

Reservists and civilian employees not in possession of a common access card are encouraged to contact the military personnel flight. The process to get a card takes only a few brief moments and a person is quickly on their way.

Military Personnel Flight personnel are available by appointment during the week and on UTA weekends to issue or update cards. Personnel Identification Numbers may be reset at the Network Control Center in bldg 302. People needing guidance using their card for the first time should call or visit the NCC.

For more information regarding Smart Card Logon and PKI, simply go to the PKI web site at <http://afpki.lackland.af.mil/html/flashindex.asp> or contact 927th MPF at (586) 307-2480/2479/2478.

### DD-214 access available

Great news for veterans! Those individuals needing to gain access to their DD-214 on file at National Personnel Records Center may do so via the Internet at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>.

This procedure should cut the waiting time veterans have had to endure in the past to receive the DD-214 through regular mail delivery and will be

particularly helpful when a copy of the document is needed for employment purposes.

NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Veterans and next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when a veteran is asked for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service by eliminating the record center's mailroom process time.

For assistance and additional information contact Tech. Sgt. Kathy McNeil, Chief of Personnel Relocations, at 586-307-5595.

### Reservists go online to correct duty history

As of March 31, Air Force Reserve members around the world are able to correct or change their duty history via the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve, a 24/7 customer service Web portal operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center here.

Before the ARPC Personnel Service Delivery system went online, Airmen had to visit their local military personnel flight or call several agencies to correct their duty history. Now, no matter the time of day, reservists can log on to the vPC-GR at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/default.asp>. If an account is not established, a few questions will have to be answered to receive a user name and password.

Once an account is established, Airmen just click on the "Correct Duty History" link and annotate their desired changes, attach any relevant supporting documentation, such as enlisted performance reports, officer performance reports, special orders, general orders, etc., and click on "submit."

Once correction requests are submitted, customers will receive an e-mail containing a tracking number. Moreover, when the actions are completed, they will receive a confirmation e-mail.

The process for updating current duty information has not changed; it still must be done through local commander's support staff or base individual mobilization augmentee administrators.

Some processes that have been automated or centralized at ARPC include 20-year letter (re-issue), mortgage letter, current points request, promotion board counseling request, and electronic promotion letter to the board president.

In the future, automated and centralized services should account for nearly every aspect of every Airman's personnel actions, from initial enlistment to retirement and everything in between.

Between now and Sept. 1, 2007, ARPC, with assistance from Air Force Reserve Command Personnel Readiness and the Air Force Reserve Active Guard Reserve Management Office, will work to automate or centralize retirements, separations, awards and decorations, evaluations, enlisted promotions, assignments, retraining, reenlistments, duty status, classifications, adverse actions and accessions.

More information about the ARPC Personnel Service Delivery system is available by visiting <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/psd/default.asp>. (AFRC News Service)



## ► PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Promotions

#### To First Lieutenant

Karen E. Mesko, 927th LRS

#### To Chief Master Sergeant

Danny W. Nagel, 927th AMXS

#### To Master Sergeant

Ronald L. Taylor, 927th SFS

#### To Technical Sergeant

Sean E. Dockery, 927th SFS

Jason M. Knepper, 927th SFS

William J. Long, 29th APF

Clark E. McNeal, 927th SVS

#### To Staff Sergeant

Dawn M. Collins, 927th ASTS

Theodore J. Marsh, 29th APF

Andrea R. Moore, 927th AMXS

#### To Senior Airman

Davon E. King, 927th CES

Christopher M. Latocki, 927th MSF

Daniel A. Nielsen, 29th APF

Abbey I. Smith, 927th MOF

#### To Airman

Yashira N. Franqui, 927th LRS

### Retirements

Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Bauer  
927th CES

Chief Master Sgt. Suzanne Merkau  
927th ASTS

Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Bocek  
927th AMDF

Master Sgt. Gary Mattiacci  
927th OG

Master Sgt. Charles Wilson, Jr.  
927th MXS

Staff Sgt. Robert Bartkowski  
29th APF



### NCO Leadership Development Graduates

**Front row from left**, Tech. Sgt. James Jackson, SrA Tara Nieman, SrA Anastasia Hnatow, Staff Sgt. John Marshall, Staff Sgt. Sharicka Wilson-Stamps, Staff Sgt. Peggy Cornell, Staff Sgt. Thomas Gaffney, Staff Sgt. Allen Hall, SrA Carrie Taylor.

**Back row from left**, SrA Phillip Gagnon, Tech. Sgt. Patrick Moreland, Tech Sgt. Ronald Smith, Staff Sgt. Hank Briggs, Staff Sgt. Michael Campbell, Tech. Sgt. Kathy McNeil, Staff Sgt. James Covell, SrA Eric Sortzi, Staff Sgt. Todd Spencer, Staff Sgt. Kevin Tomko.

### Finally . . .



*The Air Bridge is published for reservists like Master Sgt. Paul Tomlinson, 927th Maintenance Group career advisor.*

**927th AIR REFUELING WING (AFRC)**  
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